

Act, a historic corporate accountability bill.

In addition to his commitment to the serious work of this body, MIKE's friendly, outgoing personality and his love of sports, particularly baseball, helped to bring a positive atmosphere both in his committee and here in the House. We will miss MIKE very much and wish him and his wonderful wife, Pat, well in their future pursuits.

Mike Oxley is completing a twenty-five-year career in the U.S. Congress and a career in public life of over thirty years.

Mike was born in Findlay, Ohio, on February 11, 1944, to Maxine and Garver Oxley. He attended public schools there through his graduation from Findlay High School. Mike earned his B.A. from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) in 1966, where he was student body president, and his law degree from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1969. He worked on the staffs of U.S. Representative Jackson Betts, Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Lieutenant Governor John W. Brown, and Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk. After law school graduation, he became a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation based in Boston and New York, where he met Patricia Pluguez. Mike and Pat were married in November 1971, and are the parents of a son, Chadd. The Oxleys moved to Findlay, where Mike joined his father's law firm: Oxley, Malone, Fitzgerald, and Hollister. He was elected to the Ohio General Assembly in 1972. He represented the 82nd Ohio District until he won a special election in July of 1981 that sent him to Washington to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a lifetime of representing his districts in rural and small-town Ohio, Oxley has dedicated himself to promoting the values and policy goals he shares with his constituents: economic prosperity, family, lean government, low taxes, a strong defense and intelligence capability, free trade, competition, and the U.S. as the leader of the free world.

District Accomplishments:

Transportation and Economic Development

Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima
Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift Wing
Marathon Oil

University of Findlay Center for Terrorism Preparedness

River Valley Schools
Public Safety

Agriculture
Health and Environment

Housing

Reagan-Bush I Era:
Economic Recovery Tax Act (1981)

Tax Reform Act (1986)

Rebuilding the U.S. Military
MX Missiles and the Nuclear Freeze

A Strong Foreign Policy

Gulf War Resolution (1990)

Improving Economic Competitiveness

Curbing Entitlements and Wasteful Government Spending

Energy and Environment
Social Security Reform (1983)

The Republican Majority Era:

Contract with America

Protecting America's National Security

Restoring the National Defense

Tax Relief and Economic Growth

Fiscal Responsibility

Regulatory and Tort Reform

Open Markets and International Trade

Welfare Reform

Health Care

Moral Values

Personal Legislative Achievements:

Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002)

PATRIOT Act (2001)

Financial Services Modernization

Telecommunications Reform

Trade and Economic Opportunity

Energy and Environment

Decency in the Internet Age

Muhammad Ali Boxing Safety Act

Public Safety

Defending American Values

A Legacy of Leadership Financial Services:

Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002)

The Common Cents Stock Pricing Act (1999)

The Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act (2001)

PATRIOT Act (2001)

Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (2002)

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (1999)

Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (2003)

Check 21 Act (2002)

Deposit Insurance Modernization (2006)

American Dream Downpayment Act (2003)

Mike Oxley's credo has always been "play hard, but play fair." He was guided by that philosophy both in the halls of Congress and on the athletic field. Oxley played in the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity for 16 years, manning every position except pitcher and catcher. He managed the Republican team for the last eight years, compiling a 7-1 managerial record and raising more than a half million dollars for charitable causes.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to recognize the 25 years of public service that Chairman OXLEY has bestowed upon this body. He is a dedicated and hard-working public servant whose leadership as Chairman of the Financial Services Committee has been exemplary. Under Chairman OXLEY's leadership, the Financial Services Committee enjoyed an unprecedented level of collegiality and comity that permitted us all to work together and get things done.

Chairman OXLEY has a series of legislative successes few others can rival. When investor confidence was at a low, Chairman OXLEY restored confidence in our financial markets by authoring the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley Act. This legislation established tough new standards to ensure corporate accountability to all American shareholders. In addition Chairman OXLEY was responsible for the passage of The Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, or FACT Act, which gave consumers new identity theft protections and also improved credit report accuracy. Chairman OXLEY also spearheaded efforts to reform our nation's deposit insurance system and modernize our check clearing process which brought our antiquated systems into the 21st century. These achievements will have a positive impact on our financial services system for generations to come.

Aside from his leadership in the House, MIKE OXLEY has been a true mentor and friend. Fortunately, this is not a retirement for MIKE OXLEY but a beginning of a new chapter in his career. I look forward to working with him in whatever his future endeavors may be. Although I am losing a colleague and fellow Member, Linda and I look forward to many years of continued friendship with MIKE and his wife Pat.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WAR AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the President has repeatedly said that he is not interested in engaging in Iran in an effort to stabilize Iraq. There is a tragic irony in the President's intransigence. While the President is unwilling to talk to Iran, his policies in Iraq, in reality, are allowing Iran to take over Iraq. But if we don't recognize and act on this soon, Iran will succeed.

This is real, it is not rhetorical. Actions by the President, through his appointed surrogate to run Iraq, Paul Bremer, that date back to the first days of the U.S. invasion, have created a situation today that makes Iraq a prime candidate for what Iran could never accomplish on its own militarily; that is, taking over Iraq, its oil, its infrastructure, even its existence as a separate Nation. Iran couldn't successfully invade Iraq, but we did, and now we are playing right into the hands of the Iranians by not acting on what Iraqis see happening.

The media portrays an overly simplistic picture of sectarian struggle. We hear a lot about Shi'a and Sunni Iraqis, but we don't hear about Persians; that is, Iran and the Persian versus Arab is where the real battle for Iraq will be won or lost. Every time the President meets with Iranian Shi'a clerics, or those connected or controlled by them, he confirms in the Iraqi-Arab minds, both Shi'a and Sunni, that he is ceding control to the Iranians.

It began with Bremer's decision to give the Shi'a control of the governing council. Then his decision to disband the Iraqi Army and the Baathist technocrat government further confirmed to the Arabs the feeling that the United States, despite its protests to the contrary, was opening up Iraq to an Iranian takeover. The borders were open.

This is not my speculation, this is what moderate leaders in the Middle East told me in face-to-face meetings I attended in Amman, Jordan recently. Moderate leaders desperately want the American people to understand what is really going on, because they see that as perhaps their last hope of getting our President to see.

To the Iraqi Arabs, there are only two explanations to account for Paul Bremer's actions: a blunder based upon ignorance of the history of the region, or a deliberate decision to neutralize Iraq as a strong Arab secular nation, thereby making it more susceptible to U.S. influence in the future.

Moderates in the region see it this way. The President, and therefore

America, continues to openly act in ways that enable an Iranian takeover. Just the other day, the President met with the leader of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Abdul Aziz Hakim, in the White House. He is controlled and tied to the Iranians. This comes on the heels of the President's meeting and endorsement of al-Maliki.

Meeting with Iranian-controlled Iraqis, no matter what sect they belong to, confirms to many in the region that the President doesn't understand the current situation. Moderates told me the resistance in Iraq is based on the U.S. occupation and a power grab by the Iranian-controlled clerics. Blaming it all on Sunni-Shi'a tensions is not just incorrect, they say, it is exactly what Iran hopes for, because it leaves them hidden.

Here is another example. Moqtada al-Sadr, a Shi'a leader, left the coalition with the Iranian-controlled SCIRI and joined the Arab Sunnis. Al-Sadr strongly opposes the U.S. occupation of Iraq, and some see the meeting between the President and the Iranian leader of SCIRI as only deepening the passions against the United States. Friends of the United States in the region, and even foes, believe the same.

To many in the region, one only need look at history to understand. Arabs and Persians have fought for centuries before Islam even existed, and their enmity remains intense. Persians are the Iranians. Arabs are the ones in Iraq. Failure by the President to understand it is Persian versus Arab or Iran versus Iraq that is going on, has produced one disastrous decision after another. The solution, they believe, is obvious. Strategically, redeploy the U.S. troops out of Baghdad, out of the cities, and onto the Iranian border to stop the infiltration of Iranian agents into Iraq.

Some Arab leaders told me they estimate as many as 14,000 Persians, Iranians, have infiltrated to run death squads who are killing the Arab Sunnis and inciting a civil war as cover for the real war that is Iran versus Iraq.

Unless we change the course, unless we draw back our troops out to the borders in preparation for ultimately leaving the country, the day will come when the only banner proclaiming "mission accomplished" will be flown by Iran. We can't let that happen. We have to change the course. The President must see this is not a sectarian fight between Shi'a and Sunni, it is between Iraq and Iran. They fought for 8 years, just recently, and now they are doing it again, and we have allowed them, the Iranians, to have the goal of making it happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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HONORING VETERANS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REGULA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, to honor those who fought for us in World War II and those who lost their lives this day 65 years ago. Also I am honored to pay tribute to two extraordinary veterans from Winston-Salem, North Carolina who continue to work tirelessly for our country and its veterans.

These distinguished men have served our Nation with bravery and honor, and years after they have retired from active duty their commitment to community and other veterans remains an important part of their lives.

Sergeant George W. Carter served in the United States Army during the Korean War and earned the Silver Star for gallantry against an armed enemy. In addition to earning the Silver Star, Mr. Carter was awarded the Bronze Star with two V's, along with the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Occupation of Japan Medal, National Defense Service Medal and several other medals. After the war, Mr. Carter served 5 years in the Reserves and then returned to the trucking industry, from which he retired in 1994.

In 1999, Mr. Carter was employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a security guard. At the age of 76, Mr. Carter retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, but did not retire from service to his country.

In 2003, Mr. Carter began volunteering at the Winston-Salem outpatient clinic 3 days a week. He often picks up Krispy Kreme donuts at 5:30 a.m. and arrives at the outpatient clinic at 6 a.m. to set up coffee tables, napkins and snacks before the first patients arrive.

Today, December 7, 2006, Mr. Carter at 79 years old is still serving his country. In the last 3 years, he has volunteered over 2,000 hours to serve, console and support veterans.

Another distinguished gentleman is Mr. Howard Petree, a World War II and Korean War veteran who also continues to serve his country and community with honor and dedication long after his active military service.

He served in the United States Army stateside in World War II after being drafted in 1943. In 1946, Mr. Petree served in the Army Field Artillery with a T-4 rank. He also served in the Korean War as a First Class Supply Sergeant. After being honorably discharged in 1952, Mr. Petree worked in a local municipality as a commercial water repairman for 32 years.

In 1997, Mr. Petree became one of the first volunteers at the Winston-Salem Outpatient Clinic. He volunteered from

6:45 a.m. until 12 noon 3 days a week until 2005. In 2005, he reduced his volunteer time to 2 days a week.

Mr. Petree also volunteers setting up coffee tables, napkins and snacks before the first patients arrive. He serves coffee, as well as answers questions for veterans and shares his experiences with them.

Today, Mr. Petree at 84 years old is still serving his country out of a selfless personal obligation to help others and to connect and assist other veterans. In the last 8 years, he has volunteered over 4,000 hours.

It is appropriate to honor these two gentlemen today. Years after their active military service, they continue to work with veterans and support those who have defended our country from tyranny and oppression, just as they themselves did. Although these men may no longer wear the uniform on active duty, their obligation and love of this country continues.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. George W. Carter and Mr. Howard Petree for their steadfast and faithful service to this Nation and their continued work with the very men and women who have made this the free country that it is today. The Winston-Salem Outpatient Clinic is lucky to have such fine men who are a inspiration to us all.

TURKEY MUST OPEN PORTS TO CYPRUS; EUROPEAN UNION MUST NOT ALLOW DEFIANCE TO CONTINUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REGULA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks the world will see how serious Turkey takes its accession talks with the European Union. We will also learn if the European Union is serious about ensuring Turkey complies with promises it made in order to begin those talks last year.

Last month, Turkey's accession talks took a turn for the worse when it broke a promise to begin trading with EU Member Cyprus. Back in July of 2005, Turkey agreed to open its ports and airports to 10 new European members, including Cyprus, as one of the conditions for beginning membership talks with the EU. Talks began later that year, but to date Turkey has refused to begin trading with Cyprus.

Turkey simply cannot be allowed to defy established European Union conditions without facing penalties. It must open its ports and airports to Cyprus ships and airplanes under the conditions it agreed to back in 2005. Cyprus is a Member of the European Union, and if Turkey is really interested in joining the Union, it cannot be unwilling to trade with one of the EU members.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the European Union has taken note of Turkey's